

**§ 200.96 Disqualification.**

An administrative law judge shall, at any time, withdraw from any proceeding if he deems himself disqualified; and upon the filing in good faith by the applicant or respondent, or by the attorney for the Government, of a timely and sufficient affidavit of facts showing personal bias or otherwise warranting the disqualification of any administrative law judge, the Director shall upon appeal as provided in § 200.115, if the administrative law judge fails to disqualify himself, determine the matter as a part of the record and decision in the proceeding. If he decides the administrative law judge should have declared himself disqualified, he will remand the record for hearing de novo before another administrative law judge. If the Director should decide against the disqualification of the administrative law judge, the proceeding will be reviewed on its merits.

**§ 200.97 Powers.**

Administrative law judges shall have authority to (a) administer oaths and affirmations; (b) issue subpoenas authorized by law; (c) rule upon offers of proof and receive relevant evidence; (d) take or cause depositions to be taken whenever the ends of justice would be served thereby; (e) regulate the course of the hearing; (f) hold conferences for the settlement or simplification of the issues by consent of the parties; (g) dispose of procedural requests or similar matters; (h) render recommended decisions in proceedings on applications for permits, and in suspension, revocation, or annulment proceedings against permits; (i) call, examine and cross-examine witnesses, including hostile or adverse witnesses when he deems such action to be necessary to a just disposition of the cause, and introduce into the record documentary or other evidence; and (j) take any other action authorized by rule of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms consistent with the Administrative Procedure Act.

[21 FR 1441, Mar. 6, 1956. Redesignated at 40 FR 16835, Apr. 15, 1975, and amended by T.D. ATF-48, 44 FR 55846, Sept. 28, 1979; T.D. ATF-119, 50 FR 9197, Mar. 6, 1985]

**§ 200.98 Separation of functions.**

Administrative law judges shall perform no duties inconsistent with their duties and responsibilities as such. Administrative law judges may be assigned duties not inconsistent with the performance of their functions as administrative law judges. Save to the extent required for the disposition of ex parte matters as required by law, no administrative law judge shall consult any person or party as to any fact in issue unless upon notice and opportunity for all parties to participate. The functions of the administrative law judge shall be entirely separated from the general investigative functions of the agency. No officer, employee, or agent engaged in the performance of investigative or prosecuting functions in any proceeding shall, in that or a factually related proceeding, participate or advise in the administrative law judge's or Director's decision, or in the agency review on appeal, except as a witness or counsel in the proceedings. The administrative law judge may not informally obtain advice or opinions from the parties or their counsel, or from any officer or employee of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, as to the facts or the weight or interpretation to be given to the evidence. He may, however, informally obtain advice on matters of law from officers or employees who were not engaged in the performance of investigative or prosecuting functions in that or a factually related proceeding. This limitation does not apply to the Director, and the administrative law judge may, at any time, consult with and obtain instructions from him on questions of law and policy.

[21 FR 1441, Mar. 6, 1956. Redesignated at 40 FR 16835, Apr. 15, 1975, and amended by T.D. ATF-48, 43 FR 13531, Mar. 31, 1978; 44 FR 55846, Sept. 28, 1979]

**§ 200.99 Conduct of hearing.**

The administrative law judge is charged with the duty of conducting a fair and impartial hearing and of maintaining order in form and manner consistent with dignity. In the event that counsel or any person or witness in any proceeding shall refuse to obey the orders of the administrative law judge, or